

## **Nutmeg Book Award Nominee: Down the Rabbit Hole**

### **Threaded Book Discussion**

#### **student1 Down the Rabbit Hole**

I loved this book! It is great! I think that the best part of the book is when Ingrid is under the bed and she sees the two people walk into the bedroom and they steal the Dial M for Murder card.

#### **student2 re: Down The Rabbit Hole**

I haven't read it but I really want to. Could you give me a quick summary? Also, how long did it take to read?

#### **student3 re: Down The Rabbit Hole**

The book is basically about a girl named Ingrid, who, by a series of events, forgets her soccer cleats in the home of her town's "misfit citizen", Cracked-up Katie. A few days later, Ingrid is shocked to find out that Katie was murdered. Ingrid, afraid she will get in trouble for speaking to strangers, does not tell her mom and realizes that she will have to solve the murder herself.

Although the book is definitely lengthy, it is a quick read and took me about a week to read without rushing. However, I wouldn't recommend listening to the book on tape. The reader makes it sound quite dreary and listening to it takes much longer than just reading.

#### **student4 re: Down The Rabbit Hole**

I also loved this book. It was amazing mystery. It wasn't too freaky, but it was just good. Could you believe that a person like Vincent would murder two people and lie? I didn't think that Vincent was capable of doing that. It was a total shock!

Question posed by student1: **Do you think Ingrid should be punished?**

#### **student1 Do you think Ingrid should be punished?**

Who did you think murdered Katie Kovac? Were you surprised to find out who did it? Do you think Ingrid should be punished for all the crimes she did in the book?

#### **student2 re: Do you think Ingrid should be punished?**

Truthfully, I didn't know who had murdered Katie Kovac, although I did have my suspicions about Vincent. I don't think that Ingrid should be punished, because she helped solve a crime and got innocent people out of jail. Although she broke the law, her punishment was the self-guilt and all of the mishaps in her life.

#### **student3 re: Do you think Ingrid should be punished?**

I think Ingrid should be punished. She just goes and sneaks into a complete stranger's house. She never even told her parents about it. If Chief Strade didn't find her at the falls, she would have never told anyone. She isn't even supposed to go to a stranger's house. She kept lying to her parents anyway.

#### **student4 re: Do you think Ingrid should be punished?**

Honestly, the moment Vincent was introduced, I knew he would have something to do with the murder, he seemed very sinister. I don't think that Ingrid should be punished, but I DO think that sneaking into people's house was not the right thing to do. She shouldn't have kept all her experiences a secret. She should have told someone before she got in too deep. Agreeing with student2, she helped free innocent people and solve a crime.

#### **student5 re: Do you think Ingrid should be punished?**

I think that Ingrid should be punished, but not to a great extent. I agree with student3. Ingrid did commit some serious crimes like trespassing, and although she solved a crime, she committed some herself. I think that she should be punished, but not too much.

## **Down the Rabbit Hole continued**

Question posed by student1: **Clues that went nowhere**

### **student1 Clues that went nowhere**

Did anybody else think that there were clues about Ingrid's family that were never followed up? Like, what's up with the father? Where was he when no one could find him?

#### **student2 re: Clues that went nowhere**

I do agree with you, student1. The author kept giving details that made no sense at all. I kept wondering why the author needed to include the part about her brother Ty and his acne on his back. The author did include many unnecessary details.

#### **student3 re: Clues that went nowhere**

I also agree with you. In the beginning, was it necessary to say that Ingrid's mom had an uncool car? Why was that relevant?

#### **student4 re: Clues that went nowhere**

I agree. However, I know a few people who heard Peter Abrahams speak in Enfield and he mentioned that the clues fit in both the 2nd and 3rd books. Remember, Down the Rabbit Hole is only the first in the Echo Falls series.

#### **student1 re: Clues that went nowhere**

Thanks so much for sharing what Peter Abrahams said about the clues making sense in the sequel books. I didn't realize that Down the Rabbit Hole for the first book in a series. I wonder if there is anything going on with Ingrid's dad? It seemed to me that he wasn't where he was supposed to be a number of times in the book. Did anyone else pick up on that?

#### **student5 re: Clues that went nowhere**

I agree with your last message, student1. I noticed that Ingrid's father did go missing at times, such as when Mr. Ferrand called to ask where he was, Ingrid said he would be at the office, but Mr. Ferrand said he was not. Ingrid's father never told anyone where he went. But, like student4 said, it might be important in the rest of the series.

Question posed by student1: **Ingrid's Family**

### **student1 Ingrid's Family**

Would you have wanted to live with Ingrid or even possibly in her place? In other words, do you think her family is idealistic or its faults outweigh the good points? Keep in mind her brother, Ty, and his problems with drinking and controlling his anger.

#### **student2 re: Ingrid's Family**

I might want to live in Ingrid's family. Yes, Ty is scary, but her family sounds calm. I might not want to be Ingrid because she's too daring for me.

#### **student3 re: Ingrid's Family**

I would have liked to live with Ingrid as to have such a cool sister. As for living with Ty, and Ingrid's mom and dad, that is a NO!!!! I have big brothers but none have ever hit me, I don't want to live with anyone as violent. I do think that her family's faults cancel out the good stuff. I mean Ty is a huge jerk, almost nothing can rule that out. Also Ingrid's mom and dad aren't your bundle of fruit either. The main reason I wouldn't want to live with Ingrid's family is because they're not exactly close knit and prone to fighting.

*(continued on next page)*

## **Down the Rabbit Hole continued**

Question posed by student1: **If you were Ingrid...**

### **student1 If you were Ingrid...**

If you were Ingrid, would you have confessed about being at Katie Kovac's house during her murder, or would you try to solve the mystery on your own like Ingrid did?

### **student2 re: If you were Ingrid...**

I would confess about being at Katie Koavac's house during the murder, because I am not as daring as Ingrid is. I probably wouldn't have gone into her house in the first place anyway.

### **student3 re: If you were Ingrid...**

I would definitely confess because my safety is much more important than not getting in trouble. Also, I would explain to my parents the situation and they would most likely agree that the current problem is much too dangerous to keep as a secret.

### **student4 re: If you were Ingrid...**

If i were Ingrid i would have told my mother right away what happened. Some people are not that close to their mothers, and wouldn't want their mothers to know, but I am very close to my mom. Also I am not brave at all, and I could never have snuck into someone's home.

### **student5 re: If you were Ingrid...**

If I was Ingrid, I would have confessed to my mom right away as well. What Ingrid saw at Katie's house too, (Katie walking upstairs, without saying a word) would also have been helpful evidence. Ingrid also led the police off in the wrong direction with her red cleats. I would think that the mystery could be solved much faster if Ingrid had confessed right away!

### **student6 re: If you were Ingrid...**

If I were Ingrid I would have confessed. I would want my parents to understand the situation. I wouldn't put myself in danger. My parents wouldn't be mad. They would be ok that I was all safe. I agree with Jessica that I wouldn't even be there to start with.

### **student7 re: If you were Ingrid...**

If I were Ingrid, I would have just have confessed! In my opinion it would have been so much easier then almost have gotten killed! I cannot believe that in the beginning she went out and broke into Kate's house just for a pair of Puma cleats! What do you think?

*(continued on next page)*

## Nutmeg Book Award Nominee: Revenge of the Witch

### Threaded Book Discussion

Question posed by student1: **Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

**student1 Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

Throughout the whole story, I had trouble trusting Alice. At First she seemed sweet and gentle, helping Tom out of the bind with the boys troubling him for food. But then she tricked him into feeding Mother Malkin the cakes to bolster her strength. Although she seemed worried about Tom when she would warn him of the dangers to come, I just couldn't trust her. Even at the end when she saved Ellie's baby, I still was unsure from when she was looking at Mother Malkin through the mirror. And even after reading the ending, I can't tell if she is malevolent or benign. Do you think she's a good witch or a bad witch?

**student2 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

Student1, I haven't read this book yet, but I now feel that I must read it. I think that you make some interesting points about Alice, and I want to see if I agree with you. Thanks for sharing your thoughts so well.

**student3 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

I think that Alice is a good witch and a bad witch for many reasons and there are to many to explain in my answer to the question.

**student4 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

I definitely think she's benign because of her healing skills. Remember, a benign doesn't have to be a good witch. A benign is a witch who uses herbs and plants and practices in the fields of healing. But yes, i think Alice is a good witch.

**student5 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

If Alice hadn't been indoctrinated by her nefarious mother and uncle, I believe she definitely would have been benign. However, personality is both nurture and nature, and growing up, she was taught terrible traditions.

**student6 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

Alice is a good witch because if she was bad than she wouldn't be helping Tom in the books.

**student7 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

I agree with Tom and his mother, I don't think that Alice is going to be a good witch or a bad witch, I think that she is going to be his worst enemy and his best friend.

**student8 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

In the beginning of the story, I felt that she was a bad witch. Especially when she tricked Tom twice. Then when she was trying to free Tom from the pit. I couldn't tell whether she was setting Tom up again or she was really trying to help. Knowing all this, I felt that she was a bad witch because if she was good, then she wouldn't have done what Bony Lizzie ordered her to do.

**student9 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

Alice is a good witch.

**student10 re: Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?**

I think Alice is good now but may turn evil.

*(continued on next page)*

## **Revenge of the Witch continued**

Question posed by student1: **Rating**

### **student1 Rating**

I would rate this book a 10 out of 10. What is your rating?

### **student2re: Rating**

I would rate this book a 8, because the story was interesting, but also a bit boring. The interesting parts were when Tom defeated Mother Malkin and Bony Lizzie. Some boring parts were when the author described what was going on at Tom's house when he visited the second time. I think that those parts, such as when Mam was in her rocking chair, could have been taken out. That is why I would give this book a rating of 8 out of 10.

### **student3 re: Rating**

I would rate this book an easy 15 ½, because it was a good book, scary, and non-real at the same time! I think that it was an awesome book, and that other people should read it. It had great characters; my favorite was the Spook, because I absolutely loved the way that he handled his job! At the beginning though, I was kind of irritated with him, not telling Tom that the invisible guy could be defeated by braveness.

### **student4 re: Rating**

I would rate it an eight because it was a good book but parts lacked emphasis and description, also, I thought that Alice's character made the book confusing because you didn't know if she was good or bad.

### **student5 re: Rating**

I'd give it a 9.

*(continued on next page)*

## Nutmeg Book Award Nominee: Emako Blue

### Threaded Book Discussion

Question posed by student1: **Emako dies**

**student1 Emako dies**

When Emako dies from the gun shot I wanted to cry for everyone who loved her including Monterey. I was also mad at her brother for targeting her house to the gangs! When I finished this book I realized it was written from her funeral.

**student2 re: Emako dies**

It is SO unfair that she died!

**student3 re: Emako dies**

I really feel bad for Monterey and how she lost her best friend too. I don't know what I would do if I lost my best friend!

**student4 re: Emako dies**

I feel so bad that Emako died. Her brother was so mean to just leave her there he should have been with her. Instead he ran away. Monterey and Emako's parents must have gone through so much pain. Emako's parents must have been so disgusted with their son for getting into all the "gangster stuff" since that was the reason why she died!

**student5 re: Emako dies**

I think it was horrible that she died because she had done nothing wrong. She was innocent and her brother was not, not that I think her brother should have died! I think it was really cruel of her brother to target her house just like someone else had said. I felt really bad for all the people that had loved her like Monterey, Jamal, and Eddie. I think her brother should have just stayed in jail! It was a horrible way to die!

**student6 re: Emako dies**

I really feel sad for Monterey because she was really close with Emako and Emako dying must have been really hard for her. She had so many memories with her and Emako was one of the only people who understand her. If I ever lost my best friend I don't know what I would do and I would probably never stop crying. I really think that she shouldn't have died because she had such a good life ahead of her and then she died and it was really depressing. I think that Emako's brother shouldn't have come home because he got Emako killed. It was all his fault.

**student7 re: Emako dies**

I was really sad when Emako died because Emako never did anything to deserve it and it seemed like she was going to have a perfect life once she got out of her neighborhood. It was her brother's fault because if it wasn't for him, the mean people who shot her would never have even come near her. He should have stayed in jail. I would also put some blame on her mother because her mother was part of why he stayed home and didn't do anything. She was always taking care of him all the time. I also feel bad for all of her friends and family because it must have been hard for them. I also feel especially bad for Monterey because she was there with her when she died. Being shot is a terrible way to die, especially when you don't even deserve it.

**student8 re: Emako dies**

I agree with student7. Emako did not deserve to die. She was a victim of her circumstances. She was such a strong person and left a huge impression on people's lives. I think her life changed other people's lives in a positive way. I wonder if her family changed after she died.

**student9 re: Emako dies**

I felt bad for Monterey too because she had to watch Emako die and see it all happen! Monterey also loved her. Monterey was lucky that she didn't get shot but Emako

*(continued on next page)*

**Emako Blue: Emako dies continued**

shouldn't have gotten shot either. Emako's life was too short and she was so talented. Her brother should have stayed in jail or should have bought his own house so that the people who shot Emako could stay away from her house.

**student10 re: Emako dies**

When I got to the scene of the death of Emako I wanted to cry like I never cried before and it was really sad because Monterey was her best friend and she witnessed the death. It was such a sad moment.

**student11 re: Emako dies**

I know,,, that book was so sad. I did not want Emako to die so soon in the book. But in the end I thought that was the climax of the book.....

**student12 re: Emako dies**

I got into the book so much that I forgot she died at the end. When I found out again I remembered and I felt so bad for all her family and especially Monterey and Jamal. Jamal was just starting to like her and that was Monterey's only best friend besides David.

**student13 re: Emako dies**

I was really sad when she died because I was just getting into the story and then Emako died.

**student14 re: Emako dies**

A lot of people liked Emako and I was really sad when she died. I bet there are only few in this world who know how Monterey feels. She shouldn't have died. I think the author was basing this on reality a little bit because there is a lot of this that happens in the world.

**student15 re: Emako dies**

I agree that Emako dying was sad, but I feel that when everyone was at her funeral was the saddest part in the book. You really see how many people Emako touched, based on the number of people who came to her funeral, and the sadness that Monterey, Eddie, Savannah, Jamal, and her family felt. For me, at the funeral part, it really sunk in about what a great person Emako was, and what a loss she was to so many.

**student16 re: Emako dies**

Emako's death was very sudden and sad. I can't imagine how Monterey felt at that moment. Emako's brother handled the situation very immaturely and showed extremely poor judgment. Not only was he a felon, but the consequence for his actions were given to his sister. Eddie and Jamal did not believe it when they first heard the news. When Jamal finds out, he tries to act tough, but I could tell he was very upset. Although Emako's death was very depressing, it was central to the book. The whole story revolved around Emako's friends and enemy and how she affected their lives. She was a strong character and it was dismal to see her go.

**student17 re: Emako dies**

When Emako died I wanted to cry it was so sad. I felt really bad for her friends and family too. If my Best Friend died I would be heartbroken.

**student18 re: Emako dies**

In my opinion, the character Emako was completely overrated. I was expecting a true, goodhearted person who spent more time helping out at the soup kitchen than with her friends. However, Emako seemed to be a kind, but ordinary teen.



## **Emako Blue continued**

Question posed by student1: **Savannah**

### **student1 Savannah**

Why was Savannah even a character in this book? She barley even knew Emako Blue, and did basically nothing in the book that connected to her. All she did was tell Emako that she should not date Jamal, and talk to her friend who was dating Jamal. I don't get it!

### **student2 re: Savannah**

I think that Savannah was a very important character. I feel this way because she had many chapters in this book and also helped out Jamal. But she should of stayed out of the relationship of him and Emako.

### **student3 re: Savannah**

Agree.

### **student4 re: Savannah**

I think that savannah had nothing to do with the story. She only had a little part to tell in a few of the chapters. If you agree write back to me.

### **student1 re: Savannah**

TO: student2

I TOTALLY agree with you? So why was she even IN the story? Hmmm.

I don't think Savanna should have been in the book either. She just was Gina's friend and gave Gina Emako's number just so that Gina could yell at Emako.

### **student6 re: Savannah**

It seemed like it just kept repeating how she was telling Emako that she shouldn't date Jamal. I agree with the people who think that Savannah was not an important character in this book.

### **student7 re: Savannah**

I think that Savannah was a very jealous character because no one really liked Savannah because she was mean to people and Emako had a lot of friends. Also, Emako could really sing, but Savannah just had a regular voice. At the holiday concert, Emako had a solo that made everyone jump to their feet and got her offered a record deal, and her mother was there to see her. When Savannah got to sing, she thought that her mom had forgotten about her because she showed up really late. Emako had all of the guys drooling over her and Savannah didn't. I do though, think that she was an important character because she caused some of the problems that Emako had to go through even though they weren't the main ones.

### **student8 re: Savannah**

Savannah was very important in the book. She was Emako's enemy, so to speak. The story would have had little point without Savannah's negative view on it every so often. She was extremely jealous of Emako. Emako was pretty, talented, and everyone liked her. Savannah had a reputation of being nasty and spreading rumors. How could she help being jealous? Also, Jamal was starting to like Emako more than his girlfriend Gina who was Savannah's best friend. Savannah played a very important role in this story.

### **student9 re: Savannah**

Personally, I think it was Savannah who was victimized in this story. Savannah was teased constantly for her shape and noticed because of her skin color. Savannah was only trying to stick up for her friend when she spoke to Jamal and Emako about the situation. If you try to see the story from Savannah's perspective, you could even argue that Emako was the real antagonist.

*(continued on next page)*



## **Emako Blue continued**

Question posed by student1: **What did you think of the book?**

### **student1 What did you think of the book?**

I thought that the book was very interesting. I thought this because it was very intense. Also, I thought that it was very during the shoot out. It wasn't right that that had happened to her. She is such a great and talented person. I recommend this book to people who like stories that are like roller coasters.

## **Emako Blue: What did you think of the book? continued**

### **student2 re: What did you think of the book?**

Hey! I thought the book was EXCELLENT! I agree, it wasn't right what happened to Emako. She had her whole life planned as a singer. She was VERY talented. I DEFINATELY recommend this book to people who are somewhat emotional.

### **student3 re: What did you think of the book?**

I think that book sounds really good but is it sad?

### **student2 re: What did you think of the book?**

I think the book was REALLY good. I recommend it to anyone who is a sucker for a good book. It has a little bit of everything: romance, mystery, friendship and somewhat freaky (when Emako dies). It IS sad, but you'll be able to take it. It's not that bad! My advice to you: READ THE BOOK!

### **student4 re: What did you think of the book?**

I thought the book was very interesting because it had tragedies and it has mystery. I liked how it changed between Savannah, Jamal, Eddie and Monterey. It showed more of how everyone felt, not just one character. I hated though, how Emako had to die. She didn't deserve to die like that. She was really nice and never bothered anyone. It teaches you good lessons like not to get in gangs and trouble with the police because it could not only damage you but loved ones, too. Its one of my personal favorites.

### **student5 re: What did you think of the book?**

I liked the book too. It was sad when Emako died but, great before her death. I liked how the chapters changed from one character to another too. I also thought that Eddie and Monterey were a cute couple.

### **student6 re: What did you think of the book?**

I thought that the book was very good. It was interesting. It had some drama, mystery, and tragedy. I had never read a book that switches between characters before Emako Blue. I liked the way it switched between characters because you got to see four sides of the story (in this particular story) not just one person's thoughts or no one's at all. I did like it and it is one of my favorite books. I would recommend this book to whoever likes drama, romance, tragedies, or just a good quick read.

### **student7 re: What did you think of the book?**

I thought the book was pretty good. It had a lot of very interesting parts. Some of those parts were when Emako got shot. When that happened there was a lot of other action going on and I liked that action. I think this is one of the best books I've ever read in my life. It was an all-around great book.

### **student8 re: What did you think of the book?**

I loved Emako Blue. I enjoyed reading from Monterey's, Jamal's, Savannah's, Eddie's, and Emako's points of view. They all told the story a little differently, and it made the book more interesting. I liked how I could put myself in their place, in Los Angeles which is halfway across the country, because my lifestyle is so unlike theirs, and it was good to see how they live so differently. I enjoyed the characters in the book, and thought they were all unique, but related to each other as well. Altogether, I really liked the book.

## **Emako Blue continued**

Question posed by student1: **The way the characters tell the story**

### **student1 The way the characters tell the story**

Did you like how the author made the characters tell the story?

#### **student2 re: The way the characters tell the story**

I did like how the author made the characters have a chapter each because We can hear everyone's feelings not just one person's feelings.

#### **student3 re: The way the characters tell the story**

I agree with msp-m8-nr. I like the way the author lets the reader hear from the characters by giving them a chapter each to tell the story through their own voice and perspective. It made me like them more because I could understand why they behaved the way that they did.

#### **student4 re: The way the characters tell the story**

I did like how the author gave different people's perspectives about life in Los Angeles, and Emako. It gave me different ways to look at main characters Emako and Monterey. Also, because the author wanted to portray what an amazing person Emako was and would be, I felt that portraying Emako from all different people's views, from Savannah who was jealous to Jamal who liked her, was a helpful way to prove this point.

Question posed by student1: **Monterey**

### **student1 Monterey**

I thought Monterey was very shy. She liked Eddie and Eddie liked her, but every time he talked to her, she would just freeze up. The only person who helped to be more open was Emako. Monterey was a good friend. She would always let Emako do what she wanted to and when Emako needed her, she was there in a flash whether on the phone, at school, or at Emako's house an Emako would always do the same for Monterey. I know that Monterey must have felt terrible when Emako died because they were so close.

I think she was an important character because almost every time in the book a character would talk about Emako, she was with Monterey. Also, Monterey was Emako's best friend. They were always at each other's houses and were always shopping together and hanging out. She also was one on the main characters. I know that Monterey must have felt terrible when Emako died because they were so close.

#### **student2 re: Monterey**

Monterey was an extremely strong character. She was shy but Emako seemed to bring out the best in her. Her parents were still treating her like a child at sixteen. She needed to come out of her shell before she started dating Eddie and making more friends. I think Emako helped her do that.

Question posed by student1: **Do you like how the book is organized?**

### **student1 Do you like how the book is organized?**

I enjoyed reading the story from four different characters' points of view. Each character had very different things to say about Emako before and after her death. Although the characters were living different lives, they all told the same story. What do you think?

#### **student2 re: Do you like how the book is organized?**

I loved that the book was organized like this. You are right, they all told the same story, but with different opinions about Emako. They also maintained different types of relationships with her, but were all very hurt by her death. I believe that it made the story more interesting, because you were looking in from a few people's point-of-view's.

#### **student3 re: Do you like how the book is organized?**

Yes, I liked the way that the book was organized. It was my first time reading a book that had more than one character telling the same story from different point of views. I really enjoyed it because not only did I get to see how Monterey felt, but also Eddie, Jamal, and Savannah. It helped me to understand the characters better. Also, it was more interesting that way. It wasn't just focused on one character.